

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-2 and 4-25 stand rejected in this Office Action. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 1, 17, and 20 have been amended in this response. No new matter has been added.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 1,2,5, and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,970,623 to Tuggle. Claim 1 is an independent apparatus claim on which claims 2-16 depend. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference.

Toggle describes a dryer vent connection that penetrates through a wall 14 with an inner sleeve 40 that mates with a second sleeve 32 for flowing air substantially perpendicular to wall 14 (col 3, line 13 to col 4, line 18 and Figures 1-2). Applicants invention, as claimed by the amended claims, provides a structure with an outer wall 25 having an internal wall section 26 and an external wall section 27 with a flow passage 17 in between. A circulation system flows air in the flow passage in-between the inner wall section 26 and the outer wall section 27 (see Figures 1-4 such that the air flows substantially parallel to the internal wall 26 and the external wall 27 for inhibiting moisture accumulation and mold growth on the internal wall. Tuggle clearly does not anticipate applicant's amended claims.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 17 and 20 and their respective dependent claims are patentable under 35 USC § 102 over Tuggle and the prior art of record.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 4 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Tuggle in view of Winskye. Claims 7-13 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Tuggle in view of Ojala. Claims 14-25 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Tuggle in view of Tedman. In each instance, the examiner has stated that Tuggle shows the basic claimed structure. In view of the amended claims, Tuggle clearly does not disclose the basic claimed structure. Therefore, applicant submits that claims 4, 7-13, and 14-25 are patentable under 35 USC § 103(a) in view of the cited prior art.

Consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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